



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

September 23, 2008

Notice of Public Hearing
To Consider the Continuation Of
The California Garlic and Onion Dehydrator Inspection Program

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is calling a public hearing to receive comment from the garlic and onion industry and the general public on whether the California Garlic and Onion Dehydrator Inspection Program should be continued. The Program requires CDFA to conduct such a hearing every five years to determine whether the Program is fulfilling the purposes of the California Marketing Act, under which the Program was created.

As you may be aware, the California Garlic and Onion Dehydrator Inspection Program requires the inspection of California garlic and onions destined for dehydration. Such inspections are intended to provide a uniform basis for dehydrator payments to producers. The funds for operating this Program are derived from producers and dehydrators via equally shared inspection fees on garlic and onions delivered for dehydration. The inspection fees for the current fiscal year are \$14 per load for onions and \$18 per load for garlic.

The public hearing is scheduled as follows:

Date / Time	Location
Thursday November 6, 2008 Beginning at 1:00 p.m.	Harris Ranch Inn Intersection of Interstate 5 and Highway 198 Near Coalinga, California

HEARING PROCEDURE

All affected producers and dehydrators of California garlic and onions and other interested persons are invited to participate in this hearing. Additionally, written comments will be accepted if sent to this office to the attention of Dennis Manderfield, postmarked or received no later than the date of the hearing which is November 6, 2008.

At the hearing, a CDFA representative will present information on the origin of the list of producers and dehydrators used for the mailing of this notice and will receive testimony and evidence, both oral and documentary, with respect to the following matters: *The reverse side has sample questions that may be helpful in preparing hearing testimony.*

1. The production, economic, and marketing conditions affecting the garlic and onion dehydration industry of this State;
2. The application of the provisions of the California Garlic and Onion Dehydration Inspection Program upon said conditions;
3. Whether the California Garlic and Onion Dehydration Inspection Program tends to effectuate the declared purposes and attain the declared objectives of the California Marketing Act, within the standards and subject to the limitations of said Act.

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The hearing transcript and written comments will be considered by CDFA in determining if the Garlic and Onion Dehydrator Inspection Program will be authorized to continue. If the testimony presented at the hearing generally supports the continuation of this program, CDFA may authorize the program to operate for another five years without the need for an industry referendum. However, if CDFA finds from the hearing record that a substantial question exists as to whether the Program is fulfilling its declared purposes, CDFA will conduct a vote of producers and dehydrators to determine if the Program should be continued.

HEARING PREPARATION

At the hearing, supporters of the Garlic and Onion Dehydrator Inspection Program should provide testimony that substantiates why they believe the Program should be continued. Conversely, those who may have concerns about the Program's continuation should provide testimony that communicates and substantiates such concerns. Following are some examples of questions that hearing witnesses may wish to consider in preparing their testimony.

- Has the California garlic and onion dehydration industry benefited from the mandatory inspection and grading provided by the Garlic and Onion Dehydrator Inspection Program? If yes, please explain how. If no, please explain why not.
- How may have producers benefited from this Program? How may have dehydrators benefited from this Program?
- Have the mandatory inspections impacted the relationship between producers and dehydrators? If yes, have the impacts been positive or negative?
- What problems, if any, would the industry face in the absence of a mandatory inspection program?
- Does the general public benefit from the activities of the Garlic and Onion Dehydrator Inspection Program? If yes, what may those benefits be? If no, please explain why not.
- Have inspection fees been spent wisely, efficiently and according to the authority granted to the Program?
- Are there ways that the Program could be improved?

If you have questions regarding this hearing, please call Dennis Manderfield of this office at (916) 341-6005. If you have questions about the day-to-day operations of the Garlic and Onion Dehydrator Inspection Program, please call Bob Rohner, Manager of the Program, at (916) 564-1025.

Sincerely,

Robert Maxie, Chief
Marketing Branch